GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:546
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
PRICES OF PETROL AND DIESEL
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil Companies increased the prices of Petrol and Diesel in January 2003 while the international price of crude oil was showing downward trend;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the prices of Petrol and Diesel as on date as compared to their prices six months back; and

(d) the extent to which the cost of production and marketing have come down after dismantling of APM?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (c): The average price of the Indian basket of crude oil for the month of January 2003 was $29.56/barrel, highest for any month during the period April 2002 - January 2003. The oil companies increased the prices of petrol and diesel taking into account the international oil prices.

The existing retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in Delhi are Rs.30.71/litre and Rs.19.84/litre respectively. These prices were Rs.29.18/litre and Rs.18.23/litre respectively on 1st August 2002.

(d): With the dismantling of APM, the pricing of petrol and diesel have become market determined and cost of production and marketing of the oil companies are no longer compensated by the Government.